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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

9 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Charles M. Robinson
Chairman, NSC Under Secretaries Committee

FROM : Dr. Sayre Stevens
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Deep Seabed Mining Legislation and the
International Law of the Sea Negotiations

REFERENCE : NSC-U/SM-137P, 1 December 1976

1. The Central Intelligence Agency has reviewed the options paper concerning the relationship between domestic deep seabed mining legislation and the international law of the sea negotiations. In our view the international negotiating situation requiring a judgment in regard to US unilateral action has been properly stated and the essential options presented. We have no intelligence input to make which would affect a decision among these options.

2. Maintaining maximum freedom to operate on the seas is important to this Agency's collection and operational needs. We feel that negotiating tactics fostering an ultimate comprehensive LOS treaty are consistent with this goal and offer the best hope of achieving a stabilized international climate for ocean use.

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Approved For Release 2004/03/31 : CIA-RDP80M00165A001000160021-4

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Approved For Release 2004/03/31 : CIA-RDP80M00165A001000160021-4

Executive Secretary

Previous correspondence on Deep Seabed Mining
Legislation sent to DDI for Information.

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